A 1653 Fauhill

DECLARATION

CONCERNING (22.)

The Government of the three Nations

OF

{ *ENGLAND*, *SCOTLAND*, And *IRELAND*,

By his Highneſs the Lord Protector

CROMWEL:

And His Speech to the Lord Commiſſioners of the broad Seal of England, and the Judges in their ſcarlet Gowns, and Robes, immediatly before he took the Chair of State, the City Sword, and Cap of *Maintenance*.

With the Oath taken by His Highneſs; the ſubſcribing of the Inſtructions tendered unto Him by the ſaid Judges; the full particulars of this great and honorable Solemnization; the manner how he was proclaimed throughout the City of *London*, and the proclamation of the Council, to be published throughout all Counties, Cities, and Market towns.

London, Printed by *R. WOOD*, 1653.

The Speech of his Excellency the Lord General Cromwel, in Westminster Hall on Friday last, to the Right Honorable the Lord Mayor of the City of London, and the rest of the Judges of the Law, upon their investing of Him Lord Protector of the three Nations of England, Scotland, and Ireland.

WHereas the late Parliament having upon their Dissolution delivered up their Power and Authorities, which they received from his Excellency at their first sitting by a Writing under their Hands and Seals: His Excellency thereupon called a Council of Officers, and advised with other persons of [illegible] how this great Burthen of [illegible] and Ireland, [illegible]

be

be born, and by whom; who after ſeveral Dayes ſeeking of God, and adviſing therein; It was reſolved that a Councel of godly able and diſcreet perſons ſhould be named, conſiſting of 21. And that his Excellency ſhould be choſen Lord Protector of the three Nations. In purſuance hereof, ſeveral perſons of eminency and worth, are already made choice of to be of the ſaid Councel. And on Friday laſt his Excellency went to Weſtminſter, where he was inſtalled Lord Protector of the three Nations; a Narration whereof take as followeth:

His Excellency about one of the clock in the afternoon went from White-Hall to Weſtminſter, to the Chancery Court, attended by the Lords Commiſſioners of the great Seal of England, Barons of the Exchequer, and Judges in their Robes; after them, the Councel of the Common-wealth, and the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Recorder of the City of London, in their ſcarlet Gowns; then came his Excellency, attended with many of the chief Officers of the Army, and a Chair of State being ſet in the ſaid Court of Chancery, His Excellency ſtood on the left hand thereof uncovered, till a large Writing in Parchment, in the nature of an Oath, was read; the ſubſtance whereof was, That he ſhould govern the three Nations of England, Scotland, and

Ireland, according to the Fundamental Laws thereof; That he ſhould maintain the true Orthodox Miniſtery of the Church of England; and that He ſhould extirpate and aboliſh all Popery, Schiſmes, and Hereſie; and maintain and preſerve the peoples Rights, Priviledges, and Liberty, &c. Unto which Paper, or Oath, his Excellency ſubſcribed in the face of the court, ſaying, to this effect, That ſeeing it was the will of God, and the pleaſure of the council, that he ſhould be inveſted with ſo great an honour, as to be Lord Protector, that he deſired to rule and govern the three Nations no longer, then it might have a perfect dependancie on the great work of the Lord; that ſo the Goſpel might flouriſh in its full ſplendor and purity; and the people enjoy their juſt Rights and Propriety. His Speech being ended, he ſate down in the chair covered; and the Lords comiſſioners then delivered up the great Seal of England to his Excellency, and the L. Major his Sword and cap of Maintenance; all which his Excellency returned immediatly to them again: the court then roſe, and his Excellency was attended back as aforeſaid, to the Banquetting houſe in White-hall, the Lord Mayor himſelf uncovered carrying the Sword before the Protector all the way, and coming in to the Banqueting houſe, there was great acclamations of joy.

So

So that now this Common-wealth is become the Wonder and Emulation of Europe; nay, of the whole World: since that the Lord Protector is resolved to defend and maintain our National Rights, Lawes, Liberties, and Priviledges, against all sorts of persons whatsoever that shall dare to attempt the violation or extirpation thereof. And indeed, deplorable is it unto many, to behold the bird-witted Opiniators of this Age, who already begin to breath forth a disowning and dislike of this great and unparalleld Change. Alas! how great a madness are those Antinomies captivated with, who blindly endeavor the ruine of so prudent a Governor, so excellent a Protector. Defend Us, O God! from that unhappiness, where our own Reason will not be our friend! We have nothing amiss almost in England, but where our

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wholesome Lawes, and excellent Government is abused. Alas! how is the whole body of men wel compos'd, but valuing their Patrial Laws, are troubled at the present Change. But doubtless, our Protector wil consider, that in these Impressions of idle heads, their own Interest suffers an unmannerly violation. Can it be, that ever these lunatick Braines wil be constant to their Governors, who not knowing, what to ask; yet are resolved upon impetuous malice against those Constitutions they breath under, and would involve the Common-Wealth into inextricable Labirynthes.

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The Lord Major and Aldermen being returned from this great ſolemnization, in purſuance thereof, went yeſterday in their ſcarlet Gownes, to meet the Herauld of Armes, and to proclaim the Lord Protector, which was accordingly done by 12 Trumpets both in Cheapſide, and at the Royal Exchange, where the enſuing Proclamation was publikely read, to the end, that all men may conform and ſubmit themſelves to this preſent Government.

¶ *By the Council.*

WHereas the late Parliament diſſolving themſelves, and reſigning their powers and Authorities, The Government of the Common-wealth of England, Scotland, Ireland, by a Lord Protector, and ſucceſſive Triennial Parliaments, is now eſtabliſhed; And whereas O. Cromwel Captain General of all the forces of this Common wealth, is declared Lord Protector of the ſaid Nations, and hath accepted thereof: We have therefore thought it neceſſary (as we hereby do) to make publication of the premiſſes, and ſtrictly to charge and command all, and every perſon or perſons, of what quality and condition ſoever, in any of the ſaid three Nations, to take notice hereof, and to conform and ſubmit themſelves to the Government ſo eſtabliſhed. And all Sheriffs, Majors, Bayliffs, and other publike Miniſters, and Officers, whom this may concern, are required to cauſe this Proclamation to be forthwith publiſhed in their reſpective counties, cities, corporations, and Market towns; to the end none may have cauſe to pretend ignorance in this behalf.

Given at White-Hall this 16 day of December, 1653.